

# CATS Newsletter

Vol. 14 No. 2  
Sept. - Oct. 1996

The Capital Area  
Timex/Sinclair Users  
Group



## To Boston, To Boston...

by Tony Firshman  
from LISTings NL, Sept. '96

Date: Sun, 26 May 96 23:22:00 CET  
From: Tony\_Firshman@f67.n252.z2.fido.sub.org  
Lines: 159

**Aficionados** of shows will know (even if not by direct experience) that there is always a story to tell.

**The** one this time is about rain and rain and rain.....

**We** were warned by all and sundry before we (Stuart and I) left on our fold up bicycles that it had been raining for weeks - did we want a lift?

**NO!**

**Heh** heh; - on that Thursday evening in Boston we had second thoughts. We landed to a dry Boston, but there were a few spots of rain.

**By** the time we left the airport it was bucketing down. On with my leggings, kagool and spare "waterproof" shoes. How clever I am (like the pieman) I thought.

**We** were hooted off the road by a pistol wielding cop - not the time, we thought, to tell him that we came out the only signposted way. "Where is the road to Revere?" I won't print his reply. The 'aarsoles' we heard from a lorry driver to the meek old lady driver 3 years ago was nothing. Welcome to America!

**OK** we found the services road, and sailed out of the Airport - to get immediately lost. Well it was raining and the great bike map (kindly provided by Al Boehm) showing the direct bike route to Bedford on the Minuteman railway (deceased) turned out to be on loo paper (really). We had to take very brief looks at it, as each time less would unfold. We took the drunken route to the start of the cycleway (ie try every blind alley and side turning and try to go in the opposite direction).

**We** asked a local resident (we knew we were close) - 'dunno'. It was at the end of his road. We carried on down - but it was ending. Is this the Minuteman cycle path (to some walkers actually on the path) 'Never heard of it'!

**Went** the wrong way up a bus station road (Look at \$50,000 dollar fine notice Stuart quipped <I noted later it was \$50.00 - exactly - not a cent more or less. Accurate chaps these Americans>).

**Incidentally** they love their signs. Not a moment passes without some detailed instruction on what to do, what not to do, what to think and not to think. You get the picture. They also like to quote the statute 236 sub-section 236a Article 9 1956 - even on no smoking notices.

**Oh** that reminds me. Have you seen the ludicrous questions on their visa waiver form. I do not kid:

**Are** you a terrorist?

yes  no

**Did** you perform mass genocide between 1939 and 1946

yes  no

**Well** any self respecting terrorist or Nazi wouldn't lie would he/she.

...and so on. They must think visitors are loopy (don't answer that one please)

**Stuart** and I risked suicide by answering flippantly.

I put N/A against the genocide question (I wasn't born - just). Can't remember what Stuart put, but he must have fooled them.

**Oh** yes - back to the shoes. Yes they are waterproof - but against water from below. The water running down my very

**Continued on page 2...**

### From the Editor:

#### July Report

The July CATS meeting occurred on time. An attempt to fire up the club's QL to run DBEasy came to grief when it was discovered that I had forgotten to bring the monitor cable. Resolved to correct this next month.

#### August Report

The August CATS meeting occurred on time. An attempt to fire up the club's QL to run DBEasy came to grief when it was discovered that the QL's keyboard traces had failed (try typing "flp\_1" without a "1"). I retired to my home with plans to repair the keyboard membrane.

#### September Report

The September CATS meeting occurred on time. An attempt to fire up the club's QL to run DBEasy came to grief when it was discovered that its operation was not as transparent as we hoped. Ruth retired to her home with plans to study the manual.

#### October Report

See You There!

## From page 1...

waterproof leggings ran straight in, and (yes you guessed it) didn't run out. Squelch, Squelch.

**Back** to the trail; where was I. Oh yes, the Minuteman railroad ran out in Jerry's Pond. Well it was in a derelict wasteground. 'Where are we' to a person at the bus shelter - 'In a playground.'

**We** started to try to find any usable bits of map. Any bits we found (all completely soggy and very fragile) that appeared relevant were stuck onto the bus shelter. Any others ended up in a paper mache ball. I then proceed to assemble a vital jigsaw puzzle. There was a bit still missing - ah there it was on the back of a sliver, like a chameleon on another part of the Boston map. I found some dry A4 in my rucksack - and wonder upon wonders, a waterproof sealable map holder. Well no, - but it was a plastic sealable container for Bill Richardson's precious Z88 keypads. Well what would you have done then?

**Amazingly** we not only had the schematic for most of the Minuteman but also the detailed map of the area of Boston we were in. Where is the bike path (to our incredulous companion in the shelter) - 'Dunno.'

I guess they all thought we were mad and didn't want to get involved. 'We are going to Bedford' 'Neva hoid of it.'

Hrrmmm.

**Went** a bit further on - 'Where are we?' 'Dunno but I live just over there.'

**We** were in fact about 5 minutes from Alewife where the Minuteman starts. This was 3 hours after leaving on the 30 minutes ride from the airport to the path. We were both beginning to feel frozen, wet, cold, hungry (will come to that later) - where was Al Boehm <grin>

**Anyway** we got to the path - and that was it. Straight riding all the way to Bedford - and we met only one other cyclist. No wonder no-one has heard of the path (see later).

**Got** to Bedford Ramada Inn about 10pm. We looked like visitors from outer space (really) and the receptionist's face was a picture. You cycled... from Boston .. all the way ... and the mandatory 'What cycle path?'

**Ah** well - the best cycle path we had ever come across - far far better surface than the roads. Pity no-one uses it (see later).

**We** squeezed ourselves dry, de-thawed in baths, and laid out our clothing, steaming, on every available surface.

**Plugged** my miraculously dry, switching power supply in: it blew. (Great diagnosis by Don Waltermann at the show - and one power transistor and a fuse when I got home got it going.)

**To** reception - 'Where can we eat' '3 miles down the road' 'Are you kidding!' We walked for what seemed like miles to the local supermarket (a mall opposite the hotel with a motorway speed car park) for cold soggy (a par for the course) fried chicken. I had been dreaming of

a large, steak and fries all the way from Boston. Ah well, let's get drunk instead - 'Bar closes in 6 minutes.'

meeting happened here. Very very good but will leave the details to others

I liked Al praying, during grace, to God for the future of the QL. Nice to have Him on our side <grin>.

**Robin** and I got rowdy at the singsong (drunk at last).

**Well** the cycle ride home was pretty uneventful, but there were hundreds and hundreds of roller bladers on the way back. No wonder no-one knew where the 'cycle path' was.

(It was called the Minuteman cycle path - honest)

It didn't rain at all.

--- Pbox v1.68

x Origin: QBBS (+44) 1344-896987 (2:252/67.8)

## Down Memory Lane...

### THE CAPITAL AREA

### TIMEX/SINCLAIR USERS GROUP,

### Officers: Compiled by March Renick

Year	Dec. 1984	Jun. 1985
Pres.	Mark Fisher	John Conger
V-Pres.	Mike Cohen	Jules Gesang
2nd.V.P.	Wayson Lee	Tom Bent
Sec.	Bob Curnutt	Sarah Fisher
Treas.	Sarah Fisher	" "
Editor	Jules Gesang	Mark Fisher
		Jules Gesang

Year	Jun. 1986	??? 1987
Pres.	Tom Bent	Tom Bent
V-Pres.	C. H. Dickson	Hank Dickson
2nd.V.P.	Harry Harrison	?
Sec.	Mike Cohen	?
Treas.	Ruth Fegley	Ruth Fegley
Editor	Mark Fisher	John Riley
	Sarah Fisher	Vernon Smith
	Jules Gesang	

Year	Nov. 1987	Jun. 1988
P.	Tom Bent	Bill Barnhart
VP.	Hank Dickson	Hank Dickson
2VP.	George Rey	George Rey
Sec.	Mike Warmick	Mike Warmick
Tres.	Ruth Fegley	Ruth Fegley
Editor	Vernon Smith	Vernon Smith

Year	Aug. 1989	Dec. 1989
P.	Bill Barnhart	Vacant
VP.	Hank Dickson	H. Dickson
2VP.	George Rey	G. Rey
Rec. Sec.	Ruth Fegley	Ruth Fegley
Cors.Sec.	Joe Miller	Joe Miller
Treas.	Barry Washington	same
Ed.	Vernon Smith	same

Year	Mar. 1990	Jun. 1990
P.	Ruth Fegley	Ruth Fegley
VP.	H. Dickson	H. Dickson
2VP.	G. Rey	Tom Robbins
Rec. Sec.	Audrey Curnutt	Audrey Curnutt
Cors. Sec.	Joe Miller	Joe Miller
Treas.	same	Barry Washington
Ed.	same	Tim Swenson

Year	Jun. 1991	Jul. 1992
P.	Duane Parker	M. Quintero
VP.	H. Dickson	H. Dickson
2VP.	M. Quintero	-----
Rec. Sec.	-----	-----
Cors. Sec.	same	Same
Treas.	same	same
Ed.	Same	same

Year	Jun. 1993	Jul. 1993
P.	M. Quintero	Monthly Pos.
VP.	H. Dickson	same
2VP.	Monthly Pos.	same
Rec. Sec.	" "	" "
Cors. Sec.	Joe Miller	Joe Miller
Treas.	Barry Washington	Barry Washington
Ed.	Mark Fisher	Mark Fisher

Year	1994	Year	1995
P.	same	P.	Monthly Pos.
VP.	?	VP.	" "
2VP.	Same	2VP.	" "
Rec. Sec.	"	Rec. Sec.	" "
Cors. Sec.	"	Cors. Sec.	Joe Miller
Treas.	"	Treas.	Barry Washington
Ed.	"	Ed.	Mark Fisher

Year	1996
P.	Monthly Pos.
VP.	" "
2VP.	" "
Rec. Sec.	" "
Cors. Sec.	Joe Miller
Treas.	Barry Washington
Ed.	Mark Fisher

1997 ?

# THE INTERNET

## Advocates Have Another Tool To Reach Their Lawmakers

by  
**Trudy Jo Davis, Senior Staff Writer**  
**NCTPSSAM**

To access information about the House of Representatives and its members.

----> <http://www.house.gov>

To access information about the Senate and its members.

----> <http://www.senate.gov>

To access to Cap Web (A guide to the U.S. Congress.) This page offers links to both houses of congress, and provides information about bills, voting records and laws, as well as the e-mail addresses and home page addresses for those lawmakers who have them.

----> <http://policy.net/capweb/conSress.html>

To access to several government agencies, as well as the text of the Congressional Record and access to C-Span.

----> <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Another access to many government agencies and services. ---->

<http://www.georgemag.com/vp/fedgov/index>

To access to the home page of the Social Security Administration

----> <http://www.ssa.gov>

To access the Health Care Financing Administration ----> <http://www.hcfa.gov>

To access information concerning the Administration on Aging and the aging network, including links to programs under the Older Americans Act and a directory of state and local area agencies on aging. The page also provides links to sites regarding legal assistance, volunteer programs, Alzheimer's support groups, elder abuse, ions-term care, and other senior service providers.

----> <http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/aoa/webres/crais>

To access GeroWeb, a virtual library on aging, links to government agencies and other areas of interest to seniors.

----> <http://www.iog.wayne.edu/govlinks.html>

Submitted by LHW

**THE CAPITAL AREA TIMEX/SINCLAIR USERS GROUP** is a not-for-profit group serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

**Officers:**

Chairman	Monthly position
Vice-Chairman	Monthly position
Recording Secretary	Monthly position
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Miller
Treasurer	Barry Washington
Newsletter Editor	Mark Fisher
Voice, FAX, and DATA for articles:	(301) 589-7407

**Meetings:**

Monthly meetings are held from 12:00 M to 4:30 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the Hyattsville Library.

**Membership:**

User Group memberships cost \$10.00 per year, are good for 12 months and include all privileges (access to software libraries, group buys, etc.).

**Mail dues to:**

LeBaron (Barry) Washington  
7044 Cindy Lane  
Annandale VA 22003

**Networks**

**internet:** send article submissions (short or long) to our club address, below.

**Timex SIG on Compuserve:** Wednesday night 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (GO CLUB)

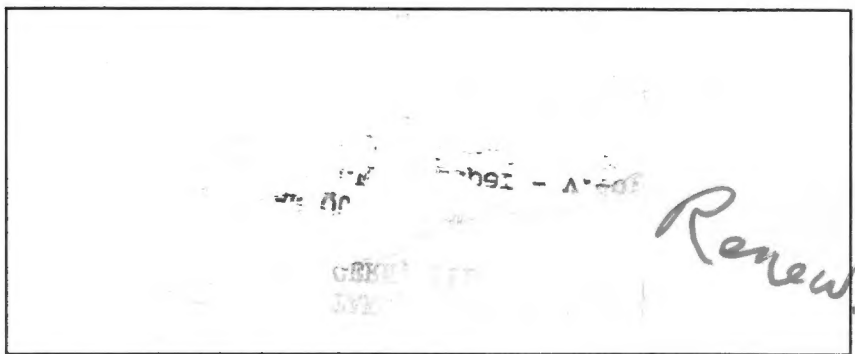
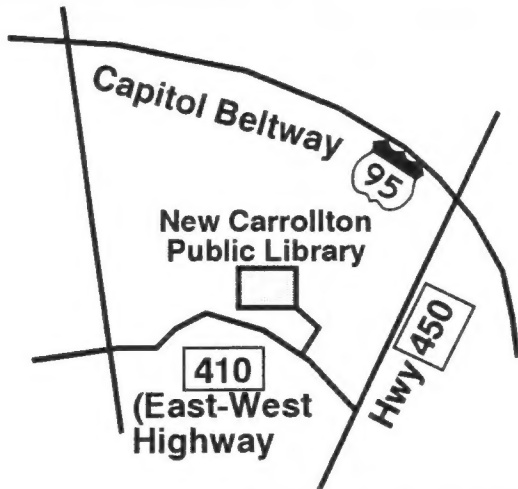
**QBOX BBS:** (810) 254-9878

**CATS on Internet:**

[mf0002@epfl2.epflbalto.org](mailto:mf0002@epfl2.epflbalto.org)

CATS Newsletter  
7044 Cindy Lane  
Annandale VA 22003

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



The next two meetings of CATS will be held on: **October 1 2**

**(Paste up for November-December)**

and ... **November 9, 1996**

**2:00 PM General meeting**

**At: New Carrollton Public Library**